

MARK A. SHELTON.

FEBRUARY 8, 1904.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. PATTERSON, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 937.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 937) granting an increase of pension to Mark A. Shelton, have examined the same and report:

The report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of the House of Representatives, hereto appended, is adopted and the passage of the bill is recommended.

The House report is as follows:

Mark A. Shelton, now 77 years of age, served as a private in Company E, Second Indiana Volunteers, war with Mexico, from June 19, 1846, to June 23, 1847, when honorably discharged, and as a sergeant in Company A, Second Battalion Missouri State Militia Cavalry, from March 5, 1862, to March 31, 1863, when honorably discharged.

He was formerly a pensioner as a Mexican war survivor at \$8 per month under the act of January 29, 1887, but is now and has been since October 18, 1899, a pensioner under the act of June 27, 1890, at \$12 per month for total inability to earn a support by manual labor, the result of senility.

This allowance under the act of June 27, 1890, was based upon a certificate of medical examination of April 4, 1900, which showed him nearly blind and suffering from piles, disease of heart, and rheumatism.

The testimony of Dr. S. L. Bates, filed with your committee, sets forth that the beneficiary is at present suffering from senile debility, that he has opacity of the cornea of both eyes, is practically blind, is a chronic sufferer from rheumatism, that he is in destitute circumstances, having no means of support, and depends chiefly upon the charity of friends.

A number of citizens of Adrian, Mo., have corroborated under oath the statements of the physician named above.

This blind, destitute, and very aged soldier of two wars can not, of course, maintain himself on the pension of \$12 per month.

In the light of numerous precedents, he is entitled to the relief asked for in the bill, and the passage of the bill is recommended.